

**Lois Mauk**

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**Sent:** Monday, January 01, 2007 10:32 PM  
**Subject:** DRAFT Minutes of the December 12, 2006 meeting of the Clark County Cemetery Commission

**DRAFT**

**Minutes of the  
 December 12, 2006 meeting of the  
 Clark County Cemetery Commission**

The Clark County Cemetery Commission met at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 12, 2006, in the Community Room of the Sellersburg Police Department.

Present were Commissioners Dan Johnson, David Abbott and Lois Mauk. Commissioners Theresa James and Tamsie Meurer could not attend. The guests present were Jeanne Burke, Paul Coffman and Pat Coffman.

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Commission held on September 13, 2006 were read by the Commissioners and accepted.

Though Treasurer Tamsie Meurer was not present, it was reported that the balance on hand remained unchanged from the previously reported amount of \$320.21. President Dan Johnson reported that, effective January 1, 2007, pursuant to funding from the County Council, the Commission would have new funding in the amount of \$1,278 added to its available funds for restoration expenses, postages, supplies, etc. The report on the treasury, as presented by President Johnson, was accepted as read.

The Commission then addressed Old Business:

**McClintick Cemetery:** Lois Mauk reported favorably on her conversation several months ago with Jeffersonville Township Trustee Dale Popp, who was receptive to the idea of help in maintaining the board fence around McClintick Cemetery on Coopers Lane adjacent to I-265. Mr. Popp felt, however, that staining the wood would be preferable to painting it. Tamsie Meurer had previously indicated that she had contacts with local Scouts who she felt would be willing to provide the manpower. Mr. Popp agreed to provide the materials for staining the fence. Lois believes that Ms. Meurer and Mr. Popp have already been in direct communication concerning this matter, but she had no further update.

**Bottorff Cemetery:** Dan Johnson had a disturbing report about recent events which have transpired at Bottorff Cemetery in Speed. On November 3, 2006, Mr. STANLEY Toan went to cut trees in the cemetery, but a neighbor named Donald Dooley interfered with the work, standing between the saw and the trees. Mr. Toan called the Clark County Sheriff and Captain Hubler responded. The Sheriff confirmed that Mr. Dooley had no standing to object to the cutting down of these trees and the work proceeded as scheduled. ~~Five~~ <sup>ELEVEN</sup> days later (November ~~14~~, 2006), Dan and Betty Johnson discovered that 10 to 15 gallons of red paint had been poured on the stones making up the wall around the cemetery. The paint was still wet and the vandalism was reported to the Clark County Sheriff. No suspect has been identified other than Mr. Dooley, who denied any involvement. On November 16, 2006, Dan Johnson reported the incident (with photographs) to the Clark County Commissioners and, on November 22, 2006, Mr. Johnson filed a complaint with local law enforcement. Five days later (November 27, 2006), Dan and Betty Johnson discovered a second paint job had been done on the stones, including a crudely painted "666". Ms. BARBARA Adams, a neighbor of the cemetery and Mr. Dooley, said there was no new paint in the cemetery on Saturday (November 25th), but it was there on Sunday

(November 26th). The incident was reported to the local police. Two days subsequent (November 29, 2006), Dan and Betty Johnson found the site littered with broken glass. They picked up six gallons of glass pieces. The police were called again. On December 3, 2006, the Johnsons spotted Mr. Dooley in the nearby woods. On December 5, 2006, the Johnsons started negotiating with Steve Miller of Essroc about installing a light in the cemetery in hopes of deterring further incidents of vandalism. All of the above notwithstanding, no gravemarkers were damaged in the vandalism as only two have been found to date; one is at Charlestown Monument for repairs and the other is in Dan's barn for safekeeping. Despite all of these disturbing events, Dan Johnson hopes to finish the cemetery some time next year, including installing of a fence.

Autumn on the River: We had a table at the Autumn on the River festival up in Bethlehem in late October. The giant map of Clark County is going to remain up there in the schoolhouse.

Borden Cemetery: Paul and Pat Coffman reported on a recent very successful fundraising effort at Borden Cemetery and their continuing difficulties in working with the school system, the apparent owner of the cemetery. Access for mowing of the cemetery is possible, but efforts to repair the many broken stones is still an issue.

Goodwin Cemetery on Stacy Road: Dan Johnson reported on his visit to Goodwin Cemetery at the request of John K. Goodwin from Rector, Pennsylvania about concerns for the integrity and safety of the cemetery. Dan visited the site and reports the stones are in good shape. The cemetery is essentially out of sight and is still on private property. The cemetery is not in jeopardy as a result of the planned widening of Stacy Road. Dan referred Mr. Goodwin to Jeanne Regan-Dinius at DNR/Historic Preservation in Indianapolis.

Smith Cemetery in Utica, near the Clark County Schools Administration Building: Jeanne Burke (Clark County Historian) reported to the Commission on the condition and plight of this cemetery. The stone wall has been damaged and the chain fence was damaged by falling trees. The adjacent house is in really bad condition; it was full of garbage, which has been hauled out. Blanche Woolls and Arthur Sutton are the owners now. The brick walls are all that are left of the old house. Jeanne proposes a Clark County Cemetery Commission clean-up project there in 2007. This site will be very near the new bridge, once construction gets underway and it is near the Old Stone Place. Lois recommended contacting the County Sheriff's Office for inmate labor to work on the heavy, more dangerous aspects of the clean up and tree removal. Community Service Workers might be a better option for the more detailed aspects of the project (raking, hauling, etc.)

On matters of New Business:

Dan is still working on the 2006 year-end report.

2007 Meeting Dates -- February 13, 2007 and then again in May 2007

Commission expiration dates: Dan Johnson - 2007, David Abbott - 2008, Lois Mauk - 2009, Theresa James -- 2010 and Tamsie Meurer - 2011.

Meeting was adjourned.

Lois Mauk  
Temporary Secretary